



BOROUGH OF MALDON.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR

➤ 1908, ➤

BY

H. REYNOLDS BROWN, M.A., M.D., C.M.



MALDON:

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BOROUGH OF MALDON.

To the Mayor, the Aldermen, and the Burgesses of the
Borough of Maldon.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to report on the sanitary condition of the Borough of Maldon during the year 1908.

SITUATION.—The Town of Maldon is situated for the most part on a ridge, rising to a height of about 120 feet, overlooking the tidal estuary of the River Blackwater. Some parts of the town are low-lying, and are occasionally flooded with salt water during exceptionally high tides. The soil is chiefly clay, with occasional patches of gravel.

OCCUPATIONS OF THE INHABITANTS.—The occupations of the inhabitants include work at iron foundries, timber yards, and flour mills. There are also a small seafaring population, and a few agricultural labourers. None of these occupations have any particular effect on the public health, and there are no offensive trades.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION is good on the whole. The building bye-laws are satisfactory and well enforced. Some of the older houses are, however, ill-built, and crowded together.

No action under the Housing of the Working Classes Act has been taken during the year.

WATER SUPPLY.—The supply of water is derived from two deep wells, sunk to the Thanet Sands at 220 feet below sea level, and the Reading Beds at 120 feet respectively. The total yield is between 70,000 and 80,000 gallons per diem. The water is of perfect purity, and not excessively hard. It has practically no plumbo solvent action.

A considerable economy of water has been effected during the year by replacing old and leaky water mains.

The quantity available per inhabitant—about 13 gallons—is small; but it must be pointed out that very little is employed in manufacturing purposes, as there are several private wells in use.

The public supply is in the hands of the Corporation.

MILK SUPPLY.—The dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops are inspected periodically by the Medical Officer of Health. The Model Bye-laws of the Local Government Board have been adopted. Owing to the semi-rural character of the borough the cows are generally kept under good hygienic conditions. Samples have been inspected during the year by the County Analyst, and have proved satisfactory.

OTHER FOOD SUPPLIES.—The slaughter houses are registered, and are inspected from time to time. No action under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, or under the Public Health Act of 1875, has been found necessary.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—The greater part of the sewage of the town is water borne, and is discharged on the ebb into the Blackwater Estuary, about a mile below the town. A few privies are still in existence, but they are being replaced by w.c's. In one low-lying district—Fullbridge, Station Road, and the Causeway—the system of pail closets is being encouraged, the Sanitary Authority undertaking to empty them at regular and frequent intervals.

HOUSE REFUSE is removed by the public scavengers. Occupiers are recommended to use, and are, in increasing numbers, adopting sanitary dustbins, which are emptied weekly.

NUISANCES.—Forty-eight nuisances were detected and abated during the year. In no case were proceedings necessary.

SCHOOLS.—The Council is not the Local Authority for the Education Act, 1907. There are four public elementary schools in the Borough. Another is about to be built as the present accommodation is quite insufficient. During the year the two schools which were reported last year as being without a water supply have been

supplied with one. At the St. Mary's Infants' School the boys' privies have been converted into w.c.'s. It is to be hoped that this year the same will be done on the girls' side. St. Mary's School still continues the use of "galleries" for some of the infants. These have been done away with during the year at the British School, where the infants' department has been abolished; a temporary Provided Infants' School, with up-to-date furniture, having taken its place.

Hitherto the Medical Officer of Health has received a small annual fee from the County Education Authority for examining all children in doubtful health reported to him by the school teachers. This arrangement has now been put an end to in view of the medical inspection of school children, under the Act of 1907. The efficiency of the vigilance of the school teachers is shown by the fact that, except in the case of measles and chicken-pox, no school epidemic has occurred in the Borough during the last ten years.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Notification of infectious diseases is well carried out. Measles and chicken-pox are not included in the list of notifiable diseases.

Isolation is provided at the Heybridge Hospital of the Maldon Joint Hospital Board. Only ten beds, however, are available, and only two diseases can be treated concurrently. A third block would sometimes be of great service. During the year 43 per cent. of the cases of diphtheria, 50 per cent. of those of enteric, and 70 per cent. of those of scarlet fever were removed. There were no "return cases."

Disinfection of premises is done by formaline spray, with uniformly satisfactory results. Clothes and bedding are disinfected at the Hospital by a Thresh double-ended steam disinfecter.

TUBERCULOSIS.—There is no system of notification of tuberculosis in force, and no special hospital accommodation is available. In the case of deaths, disinfection is carried out gratuitously by the Sanitary Authority.

INCIDENCE OF DISEASE.—The number of cases of notifiable disease (60) has been the highest since 1900.

Of the nine cases of enteric fever, four belonged to a house epidemic. Beyond this no connection between the cases could be traced. In one only there was a history of shell-fish having been eaten.

Thirty cases of diphtheria were notified. In two instances, two cases occurred in the same house. In one of these instances a blocked sewer was apparently the cause.

Of the sixteen cases of scarlet fever, nine were distributed in four houses. None of these diseases became epidemic.

Measles assumed an epidemic form in the months of March, April, May and June. Cases were not however very numerous, and no deaths occurred.

The total number of deaths in the Borough is too small for any deductions to be drawn from the numbers due to any particular cause. It would be futile to attempt to base statistics on the four deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, or the ten from cancer. It may however be considered satisfactory that the infant death-rate is extremely low—only 50 per 1000 births, and that half the deaths at all ages (45 out of 89) occurred over the age of 65.

The births numbered 140, or 24·6 per 1000 inhabitants. The curves of the death-rates, birth-rates and infant death-rates for successive decennial periods are shown in the figures which follow this report.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—The total number of workshops registered in the district is only 35, and in none of these is a large number of hands employed.—No serious defects were found on inspection.—There is practically no homework in the district.

I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient servant,

H. REYNOLDS BROWN.

Fig. I.

Death-rate per 1,000 inhabitants for successive decennial periods.

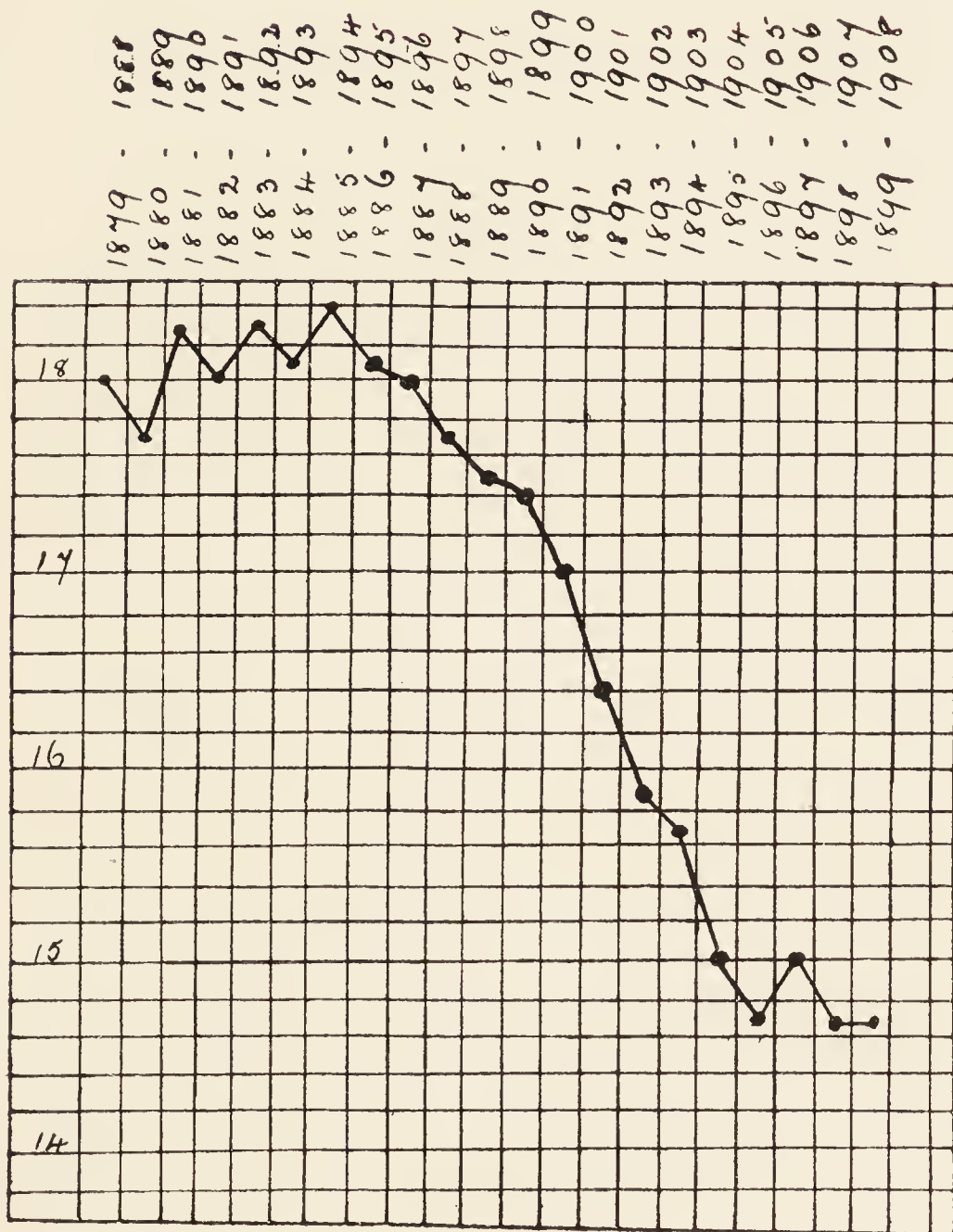


Fig. II.

Birth-rates per 1,000 inhabitants for successive decennial periods.

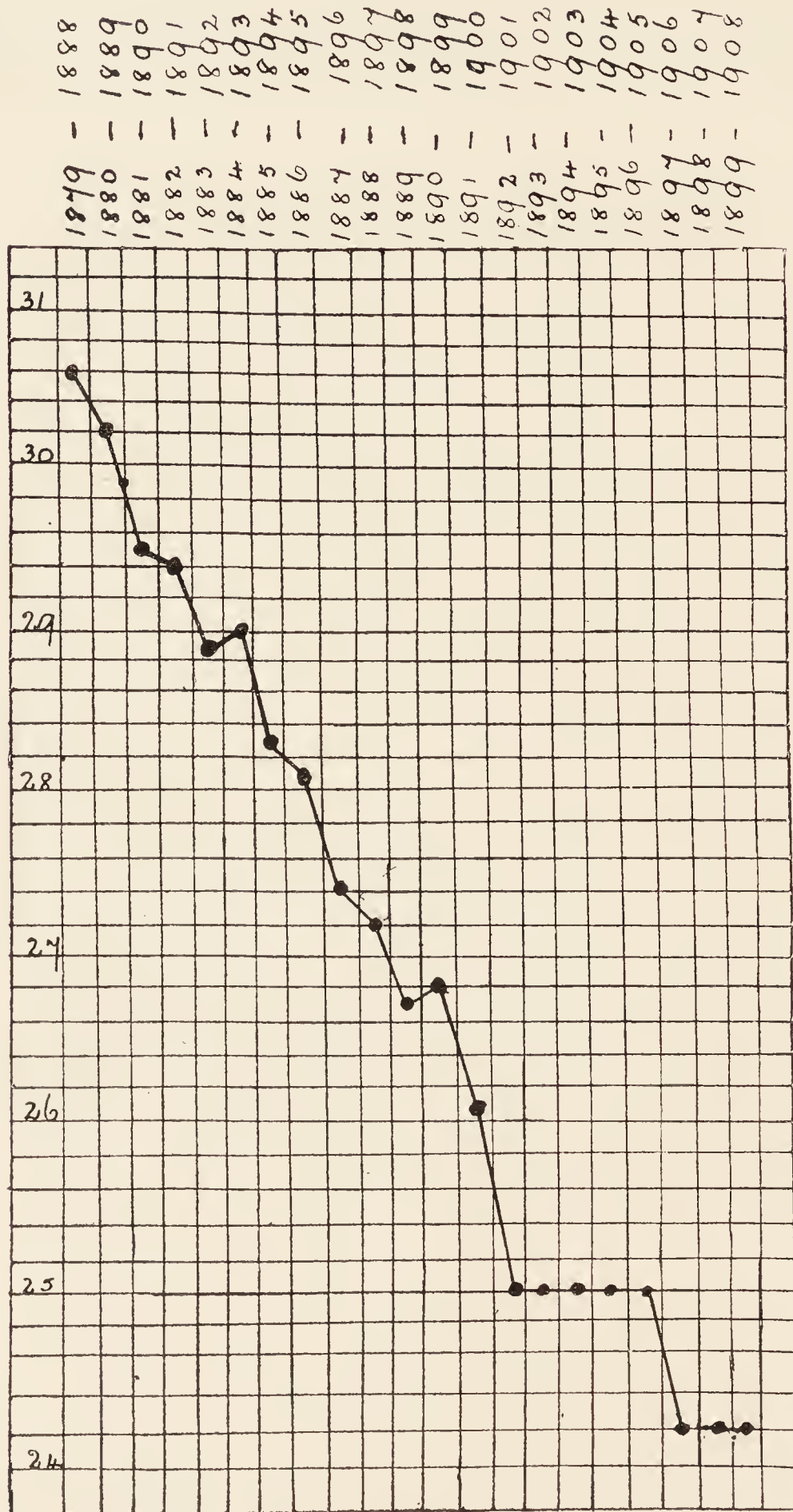


Fig. III.

Infant Mortality per 1,000 births for successive decennial periods.

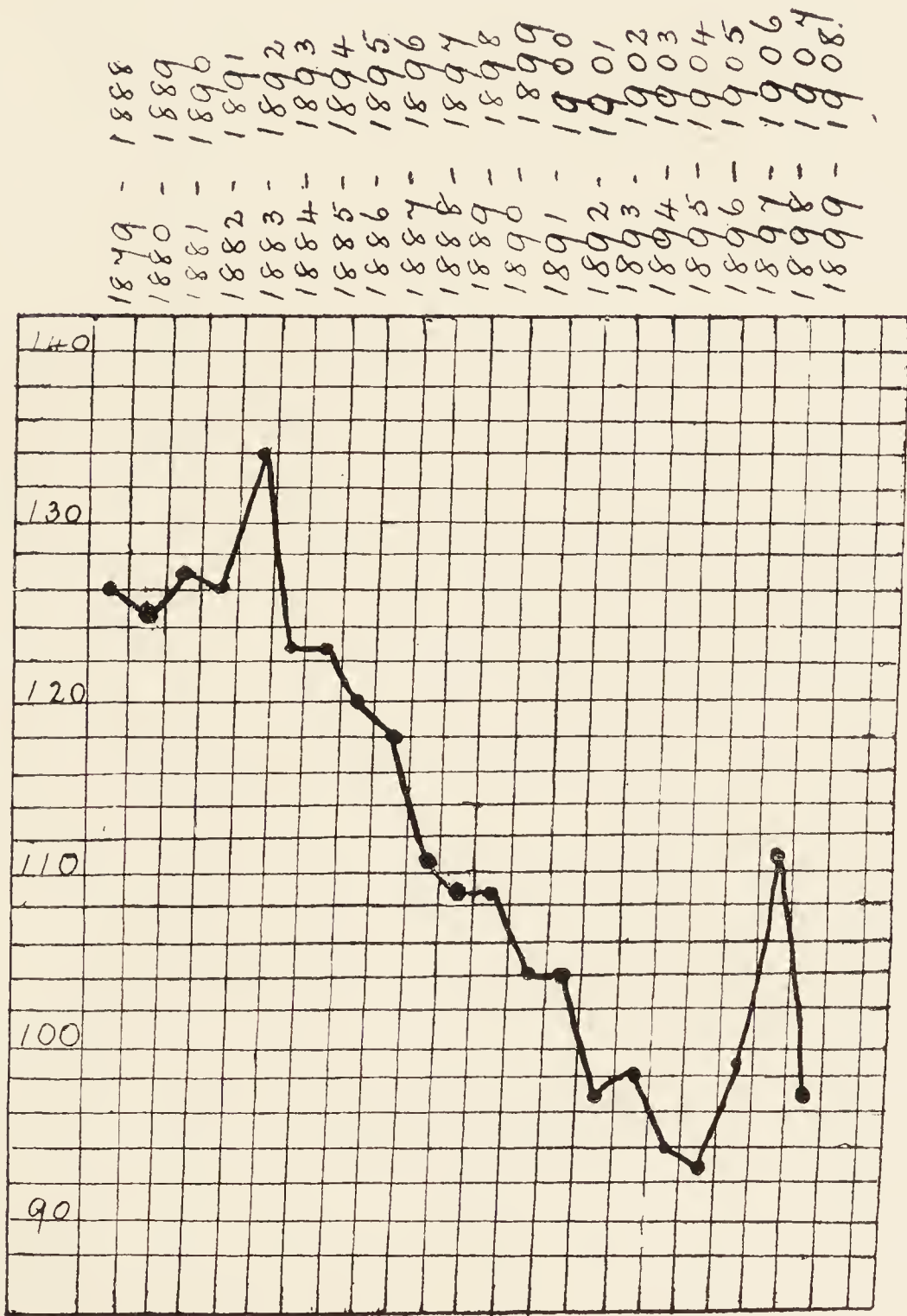


Table I.—Borough of Maldon.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1898	5,512	140	25.4	19	136	115	20.9	33	27	0	88	15.9
1899	5,530	153	27.6	16	104	98	17.7	15	8	0	90	16.2
1900	5,549	126	22.0	11	87	116	20.9	23	16	0	100	18
1901	5,568	120	21.3	11	91	82	13.1	14	9	0	73	13.1
1902	5,587	140	25.0	12	86	100	17.9	34	24	0	76	13.6
1903	5,606	157	28.0	12	77	104	18.4	37	30	0	74	13.2
1904	5,625	144	25.6	12	83	106	18.9	32	27	0	79	14
1905	5,644	148	26.2	14	94	108	19.2	34	23	0	83	15
1906	5,663	97	17.2	17	175	126	22.3	43	35	2	93	16.2
1907	5,682	131	23.0	16	122	96	16.9	34	31	2	67	11.8
Averages for years 1898—1907.	5,596	136	24.1	14	105	105	18.6	30	23	0	82	14.7
1908	5,701	140	24.6	7	50	126	21.0	51	37	3	89	15.6

* Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) } 3,028.

Total population at all ages, 5,565.

Number of inhabited houses, 1,324. } At Census of 1901.
Average number of persons per house, 4.28

I.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.

The Maldon Union Workhouse Infirmary.
Maldon Sanatorium.

II.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.

Maldon and Heybridge Isolation Hospital

The Union Workhouse is within the district.

Table II.—Borough of Maldon.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1808 and previous years.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.		1.—ALL SAINTS'.				2.—ST. MARY'S.				3.—ST. PETER'S.			
YEAR.		Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages. 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages. 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages. 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year.
		<i>a.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>a.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>a.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1898	...	1040	15	19		1291	27	21		3183	92	42	
1899	...	1037	15	15	3	1286	37	20	4	3208	96	48	9
1900	...	1034	15	20	1	1281	27	11	2	3233	84	70	8
1901	...	1032	12	13	2	1276	25	13	2	3258	75	47	6
1902	...	1029	14	10	0	1271	38	23	6	3283	84	43	6
1903	...	1026	10	9	0	1266	39	22	3	3308	108	43	9
1904	...	1023	11	13	1	1261	37	13	4	3333	96	53	6
1905	...	1020	17	12	0	1256	43	21	4	3358	88	52	10
1906	...	1017	6	12	1	1251	27	23	7	3383	64	56	9
1907	...	1014	10	9	1	1246	32	18	4	3408	89	40	8
Averages of years 1898 to 1907	...	1028	12	13	1	1273	33	18	4	3295	88	49	8
1908	...	1012	15	14	0	1241	39	21	2	3433	86	54	5

NOTES.—(a) The separate localities adopted for this table are areas of which the populations are obtainable from the census returns, namely—parishes.

(b) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions beyond the district are included in sub-columns *c* of this table, and those of non-residents registered in public institutions in the district excluded.

Table III.—Borough of Maldon.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH REGISTRATION SUB-DISTRICT.				No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from Each Locality.				
	At all Ages.	Years.					All Saints.	St. Mary's.	St. Peter's.	Union House	All Saints.	St. Mary's.	St. Peter's.	Union House	Total Cases removed to Hospital.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.										65 and upwards.
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	30	6	18	4	2	...	1	25	3	1	...	12	..	13	...
Erysipelas	4	...	...	...	3	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	16	5	7	2	2	...	...	13	...	...	...	3	8	...	11
Typhus fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever	9	...	3	1	4	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	4	...	4
Relapsing fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	60	0	11	28	8	11	2	550	4	1	324	...	...	28	...

NOTES.—The localities adopted for this table are the same as those in Tables II. and IV.
Isolation Hospital—Name and Situation, Maldon Joint Hospital, Broad Street Green, Heybridge, Maldon, R.D.
Total available Beds, 10. *Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated*, 2.

Table IV.—Borough of Maldon.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN LOCALITIES AT ALL AGES.			DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 & upwards.	All Saints'.	St. Mary's.	St. Peter's.	
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	..
Whooping cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and membranous croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fever { Typhus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

	3	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	3	...
{ Enteric ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Other continued ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)... ..	4	...	...	...	...	4	...	1	1	2	1
Other tuberculous diseases	3	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	2	1	2
Cancer, malignant disease	10	...	...	...	...	4	6	4	2	4	2
Bronchitis	8	2	...	...	...	1	5	...	2	6	3
Pneumonia	4	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	3	...
Pleurisy ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	1
Venereal diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart diseases	11	...	...	...	1	3	7	2	3	6	12
Accidents	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	1
Suicides	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Murders	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
All other causes	36	...	1	1	1	11	24	7	8	21	26
All causes	89	7	1	1	3	28	45	14	21	54	51

Table V.—Borough of Maldon.
INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1908.
Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
i. Common Infectious Diseases.	{ Small-pox	2
	{ Chicken-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Scarlet Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
ii. Diarrhoeal Diseases.	{ Diphtheria : Croup	1
	{ Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Diarrhoea, all forms	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
iii. Wasting Diseases.	{ Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	1
	{ Premature Birth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Congenital Defects	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Injury at Birth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
iv. Tuberculous Diseases.	{ Want of Breast-milk, Starvation	4
	{ Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Tuberculous Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Tuberculous Peritonitis : Tabes Mesenterica	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
iv. Other Causes.	{ Other Tuberculous Diseases	1
	{ Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Syphilis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Rickets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Convulsions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Laryngitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Suffocation, overlying ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Other Causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7

Births in the year—legitimate 131, illegitimate 9. Death in the year of—legitimate infants 7, illegitimate infants 0.
Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 89. No uncertified deaths.

Table VI.

Summary of Work done through the Sanitary Inspector in the Urban Sanitary District of Maldon during the year ending 31st December, 1908.

	Total No. for Year.
1 Complaints received	15
2 Nuisances detected without complaint	40
3 Nuisances abated	48
4 Notices served	25
5 Summonses taken out	—
6 Convictions	—
7 Cottages inspected	240
8 Lodging-houses inspected	2
9 Slaughter-houses inspected	4
10 Bake-houses inspected	9
11 Dairies & milk shops inspected }	11
12 Cowsheds inspected .. }	
13 Workshops inspected (<i>vide</i> M. O. H. Report)	—
14 Filthy houses cleansed, sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875	—
15 Houses disinfected	60
16 Overcrowding abated	—
17 Houses placed in habitable repair ..	—
18 Houses closed	—
19 Houses erected or re-built	—
20 "Certificates" granted	—
21 „ deferred	—
22 Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded	—
23 Wells cleansed or repaired	—
24 Wells closed	—
25 Houses connected with sewers ..	8
26 „ with water mains ..	8
27 Earth, pail, or improved privies constructed or existing privies altered	5
28 Privies and W.C.'s repaired; W.C.'s supplied with water ..	—
29 Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered	—
30 Animals improperly kept removed ..	—
31 Samples of water taken for analysis ..	—
32 Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding	—
33 Seizures of unsound meat, &c. ..	—

(Signed) THOS. R. SWALES.

Table VII.—Borough of Maldon.
On the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with
FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries.)	5	—	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries.)	18	—	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report.)	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	23	—	—

DEFECTS FOUND.—Two Nuisances under the Public Health Acts were detected; both were remedied without legal action.
REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.—There are 35 in the district, including 9 Bakehouses.
OUTWORKERS.—2 lists relating to 5 outworkers' premises were received.